the Ayurveda Pharmacy, had to be raised to Rs. 22,000, to meet the increased demand for Ayurvedic medicines and the larger consumption of them at the hospital. The Pharmacy and the Patasala are proposed to be strengthened by the appointment of additional hands. An Inspector of Ayurveda will also be appointed to exercise effective supervision over the grant-in-aid institutions which, for want of such supervision, are often found to be doing really nothing.

24. Public Health.—Correct vital statistics are an unerring index of public health, but the arrangements now in force for the registration of vital statistics are very defective. Compulsory registration is provided for only in the case of Municipal towns, and the returns from rural areas leave considerable room for improvement. A Bill is now before the Legislative Council for making registration compulsory in these areas, and there is no doubt that the figures of births and deaths will show a better approximation to the accepted standards when that Bill passes into law. In regard to the prevention and cure of epidemic diseases, especially cholera, a new scheme has been recently sanctioned by Government, under which it is proposed to train six medical officers in the preventive and curative treatment of cholera, small-pox, typhoid, influenza, plague and other diseases which break out in an epidemic form and in recording and maintaining notes of interesting and valuable cases. The trained officers will, during ordinary times, be attached to hospitals in the more important towns, but on the outbreak of an epidemic, they will form themselves into a brigade and do intensive team work under proper supervision, with a view to eradicate the disease promptly and prevent its spread to other places. In view to improving the teaching of hygiene Higher Grade Vernacular Schools where it forms an optional branch of study, it is in contemplation to send batches of twenty teachers from the Training Schools for a course of training in hygiene in the Medical Department for a period of three months. It has also been resolved to educate the masses in the principles of health, personal hygiene and sanitation, by instituting branches of the Trivandrum Public Lecture Committee at taluk headquarters and by arranging for simple standardised lectures thereon in the vernaculars being read and illustrated by magic lantern slides under the auspices of those branches. The services of teachers will be largely utilised in this work.

25. Education.—Travancore is justly proud of her achievements in the domain of education. There is no other part of India which can boast of a higher percentage of literacy except perhaps the neighbouring State of Cochin. The benefits of this wide extension of education are reflected in the general advance of the people of the country in intelligence, in their capacity to profit by the changes around them, and in their desire to assume a large share of public and civic responsibilities. This remarkable spread of literacy in the country has, however, not been an unmixed blessing. The education imparted in the State has shared, in common with the rest of India, the general defect of being far too bookish and literary, and not sufficiently practical or vocational. The superficial extension of education has been so great and rapid that the quality of the material has necessarily suffered, and the problem that now faces the Government, as I dare say it does the public, is how to consolidate the gains of the past, while eschewing the evils that have followed in their wake, and above all, how to give a practical turn to the whole movement. It is common knowledge that the present lop-sided advancement of education in this country has only served to bring into existence a large body of young men who have become dissatisfied with their old environment and time-honoured pursuits and have developed a feeling of disappointment at the loss of their cherished hopes of getting Government employment. These young men have not the patience or the insight to see—little blame to them—that in the very nature of things it is impossible for Government to provide executive, ministerial, or clerical appointments for all of them. The question of imparting vocational instruction, so as to enable the generality of these youths to earn an honest and independent livelihood, is one of supreme importance to the State at the present juncture. Two Committees have sat over this question and the allied questions of educational curricula and finance and have submitted their recommendations, and Government hope to take up their reports for early consideration at a conference of educational experts and those interested in the problem, both official and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

non-official. The reports of the Committees have, in the meantime, been published in the *Gazette*, and your suggestions on their recommendations would be welcomed by Government. I do not think that I should take up the time of the Assembly with a discussion of the many important problems connected with collegiate education, secondary education, and the education of girls. I shall content myself with a passing reference to some of these problems. The Committee appointed by the Government for examining the question of a separate University for Travancore submitted a preliminary report, recommending the establishment of a University of the unitary type at the capital. The consideration of this subject, however, has been deferred pending the changes that are likely to be introduced in the Madras University in pursuance of the findings of the Calcutta University Commission. It is far too early to make a pronouncement as to the need of a separate University for the State or on the advantages of the possession of such a University. The question of the establishment of a Natural Science chair in the College will engage the early attention of Government. The annual conference of the Headmasters of English Schools, which was held with advantageous results during the years 1088 and 1089, is being revived. A special conference with experts in female education was recently held by me to discuss the revision of the courses of study in Girls' schools, and certain decisions have been arrived at which are calculated to strengthen the features that ought to distinguish female education from the education given to boys. It is here my pleasing duty to acknowledge the substantial co-operation which the Government have always been receiving from the people in the sphere of education. Without such co-operation it is impossible for Government to meet the growing and diverse needs of this important department. As a step in the direction of curtailing avoidable expenditure and utilising it to meet the more pressing needs of education, it is considered that costly educational buildings need not be provided in out-of-the-way places and cheap type designs for school buildings have accordingly been called for from the Chief Engineer.

EFFICIENCY OF ADMINISTRATION.

26. Salaries.—That a State can get on with the same governmental machinery even though its work may be steadily increasing is one of those fallacious notions commonly held by the people. Under the same category comes the belief that salaries once fixed need no enhancement thereafter. With the expansion of activities all round, and with the development of representative institutions, the work of Government must necessarily increase, and their functions become more complicated, onerous and varied. This renders the strengthening of existing departments and the creation of new ones unavoidable and it is inevitable that when the cost of living rises and increasing complexity of work demands a higher standard of qualifications in the men engaged to do it, the wages paid must correspondingly increase. The all-round demand for increased salaries on account of a rise in the cost of living has become specially insistent since the date of the substantial reforms effected in this direction in British India and in several Indian States. In the case of the low-paid officials, like clerks and schoolmasters, and of menial servants, it is literally true to say that the problem is one of life and death, while in the case of the higher ranks of the services also, the problem is hardly less serious, involving as it does the enforced curtailment of the usual amenities of life and the lowering of the usual standards of comfort and convenience. It is perhaps not so widely known as it should be that the services in Travancore are none too extravagantly paid. I certainly recognise that conditions of service cannot be quite parallel in British India and Travancore, or in Travancore and other Indian States; but any undue and disproportionate disparity between the rates of remuneration obtaining here and elsewhere is bound to have an undesirable reaction on the quality and quantity of the work turned out by our services, besides rendering future recruitment to them difficult and unsatisfactory. It is, in this connection, also worthy of remembrance that public servants with fixed salaries are not in a position to take automatic advantage of a rise in the wage-market, and it therefore becomes the duty of the Government to make such adjustments in the scales of their remuneration from time to time as are calculated to ensure contentment. Government have already, in view of the pressing urgency of the matter, afforded a certain amount of relief to their

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly